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Waggoner

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(54) **MAGNETIC PAINTBRUSH OR TOOL HOLDER**

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B67B 7/14 (2006.01)

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CPC ***B44D 3/123*** (2013.01); ***B67B 7/14*** (2013.01)

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CPC B44D 3/126; B44D 3/123; B44D 3/125; B44D 3/12; B67B 7/14
USPC 220/697, 699, 700, 695, 570, 736, 735; 15/236.03
See application file for complete search history.

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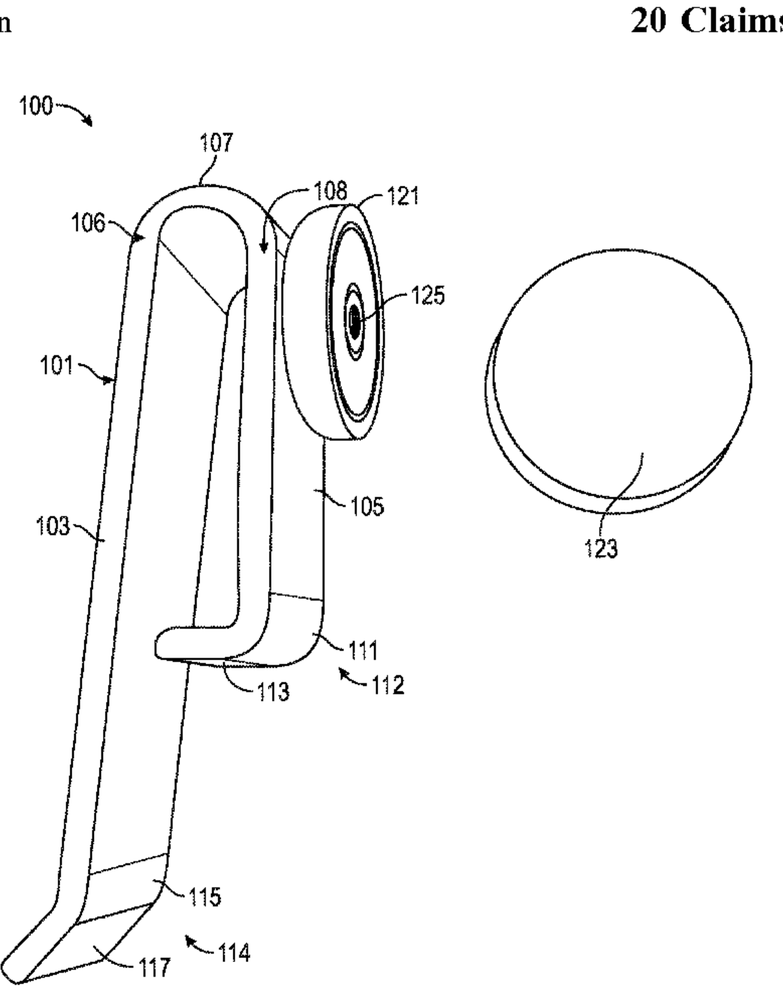
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A tool holder includes a body having a posterior arm with a first longitudinal axis extending from a posterior arm proximal portion to a posterior arm distal end. The body includes an anterior arm having a second longitudinal axis extending from an anterior arm proximal portion to an anterior arm distal end. The anterior arm proximal portion includes an anterior arm offset portion having a third longitudinal axis that intersects the first longitudinal axis at or below a midpoint of the posterior arm. The body also includes a u-shaped portion joining the posterior arm distal end and the anterior arm distal end. At least one magnet is positioned on the anterior arm to connect to a paintbrush or other tool.

20 Claims, 7 Drawing Sheets



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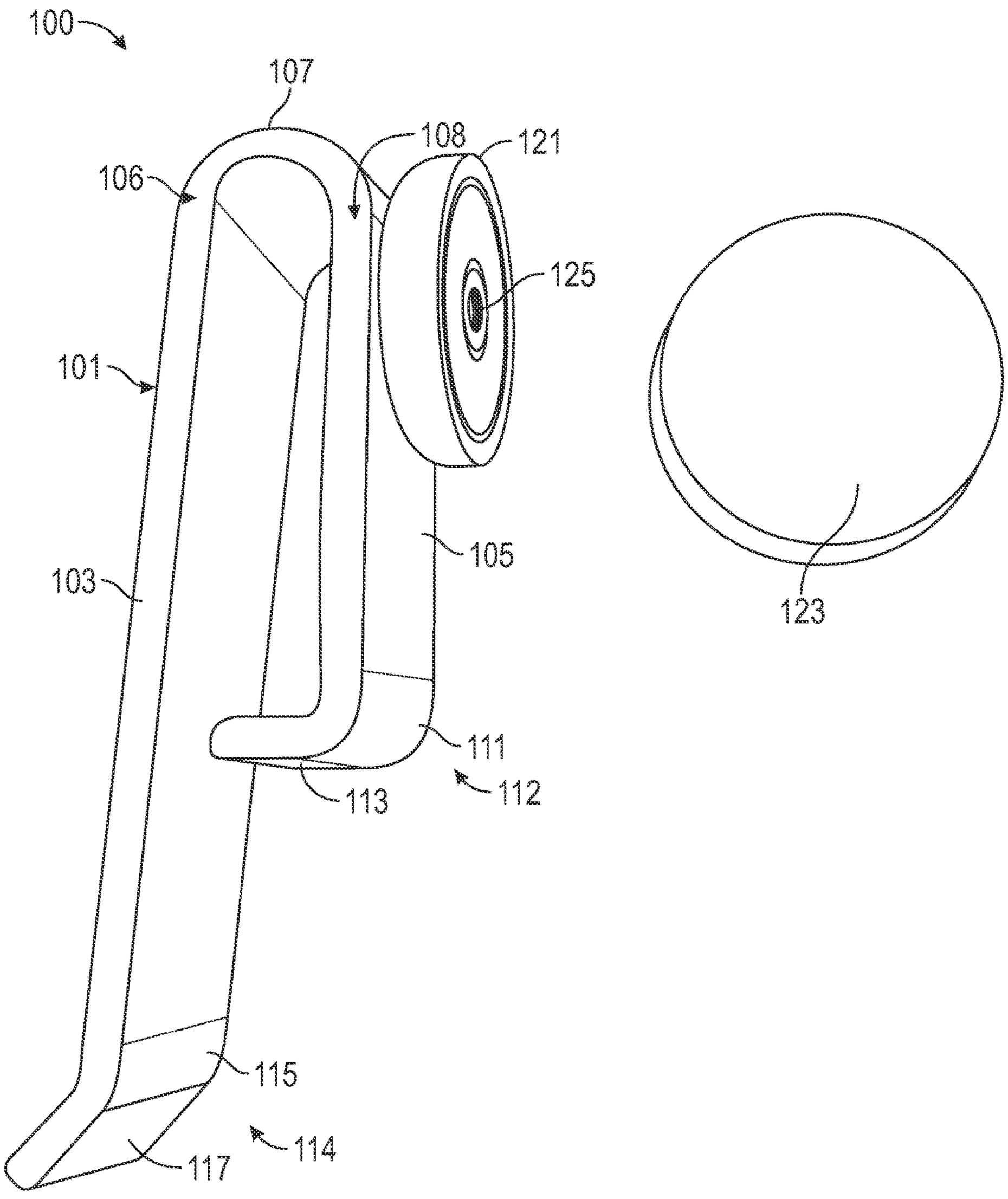

FIG. 1

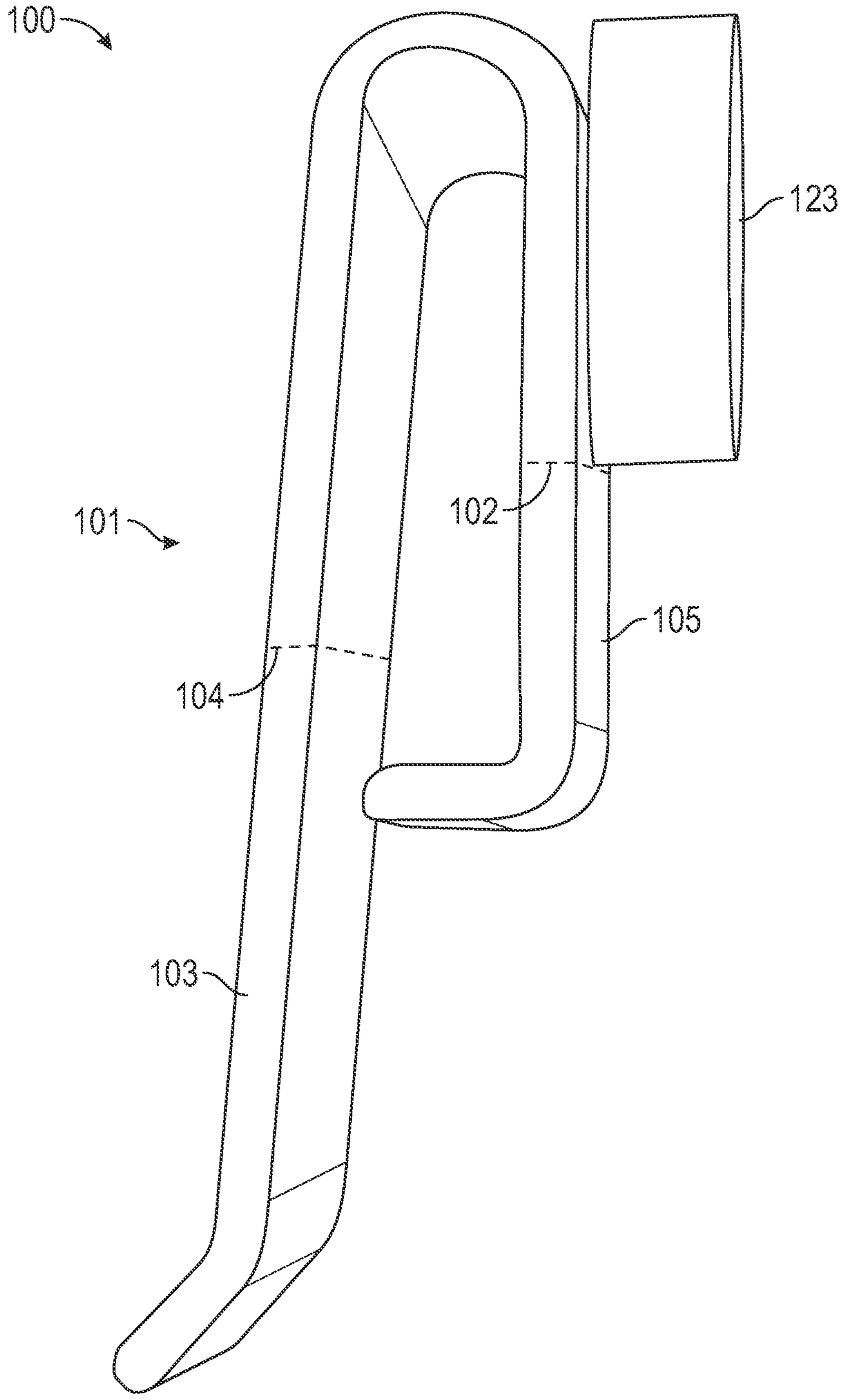

FIG. 2

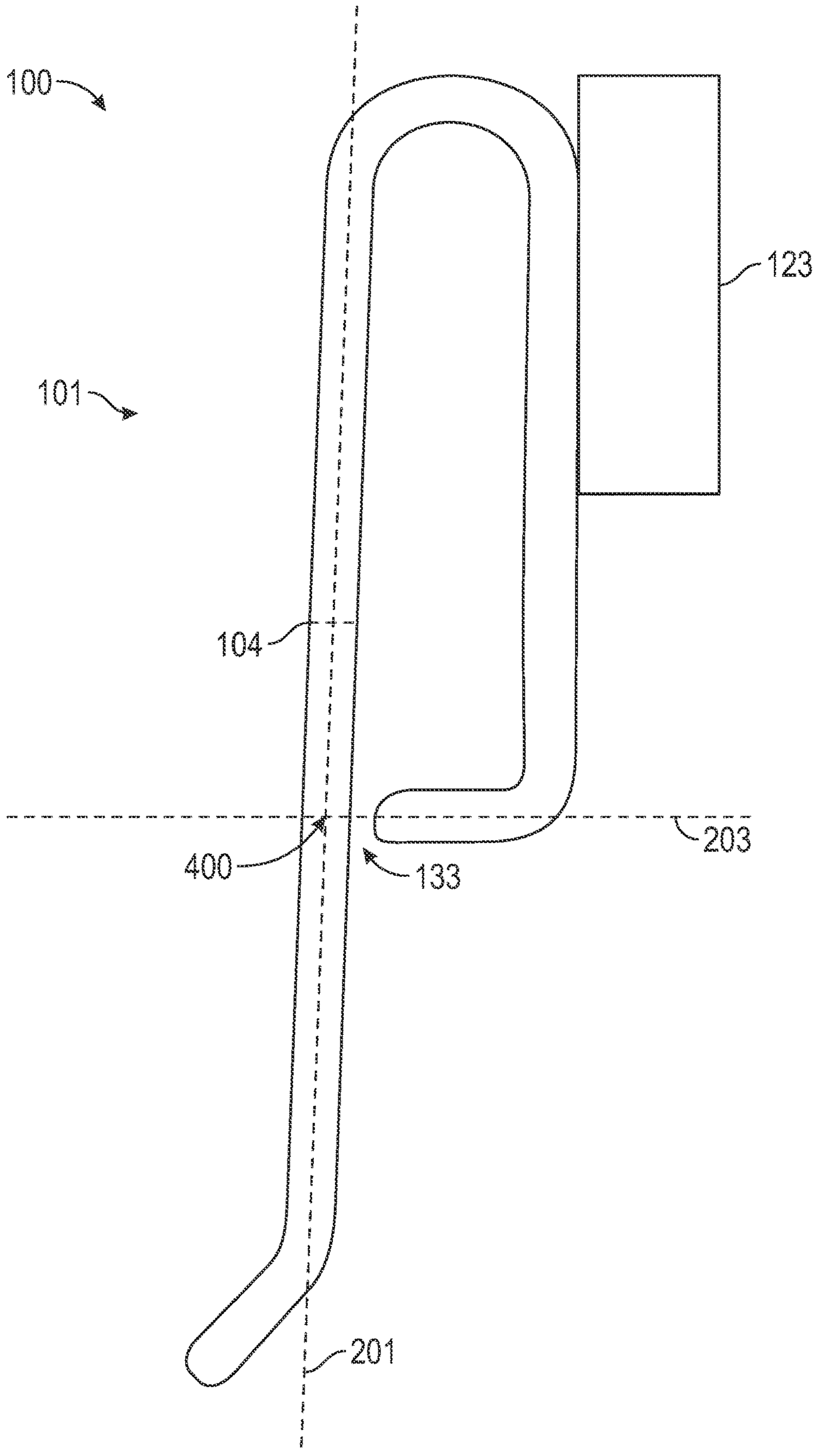

FIG. 3

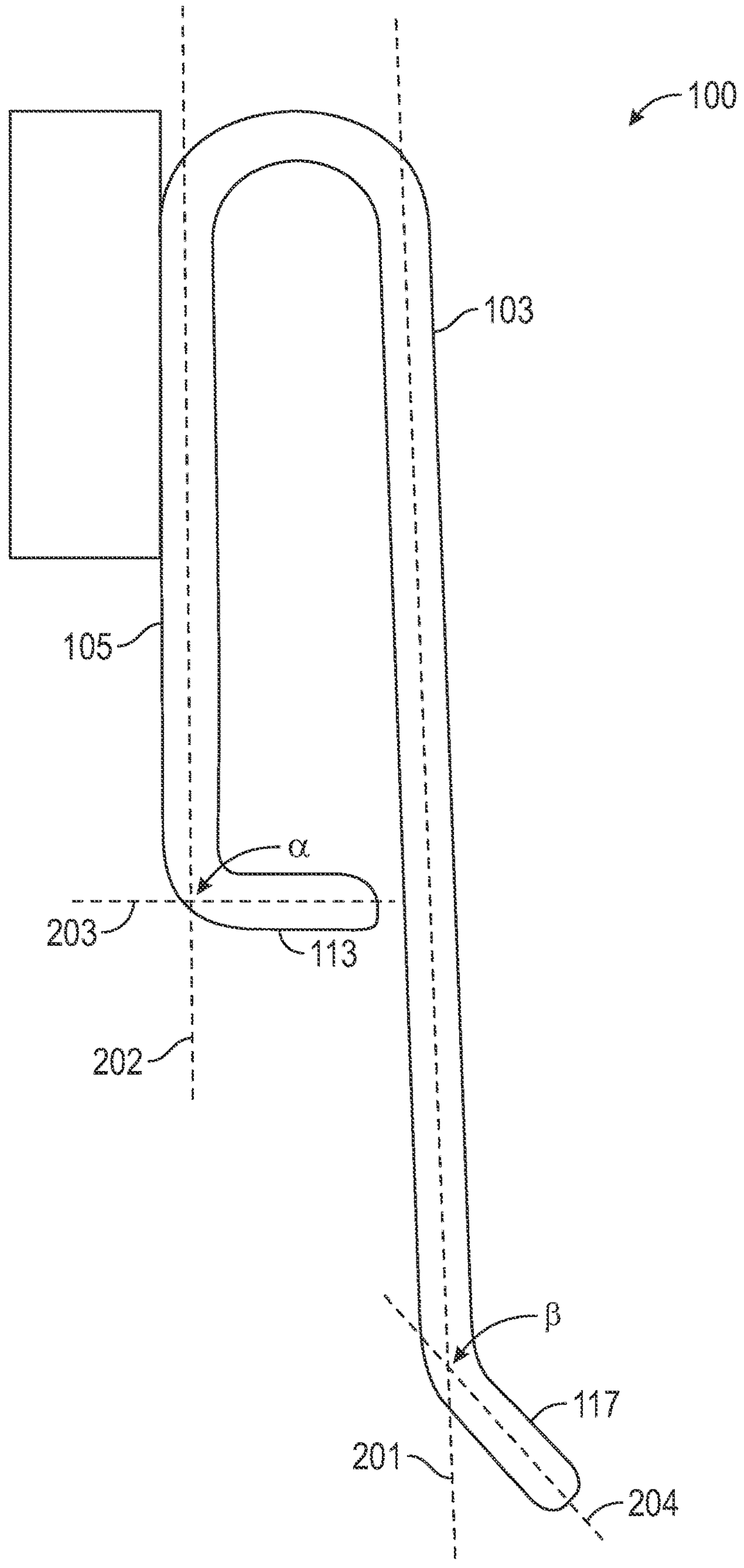

FIG. 4

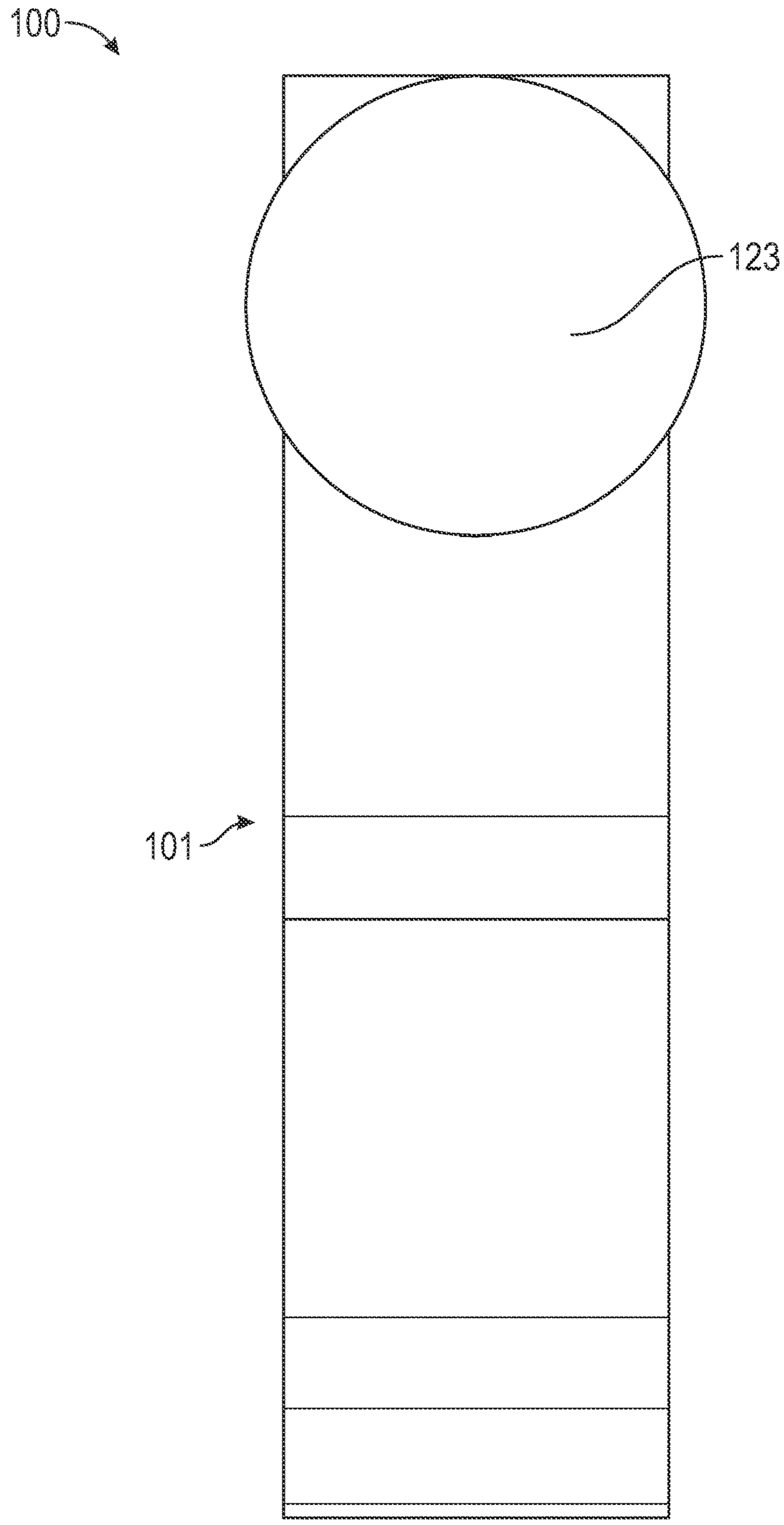

FIG. 5

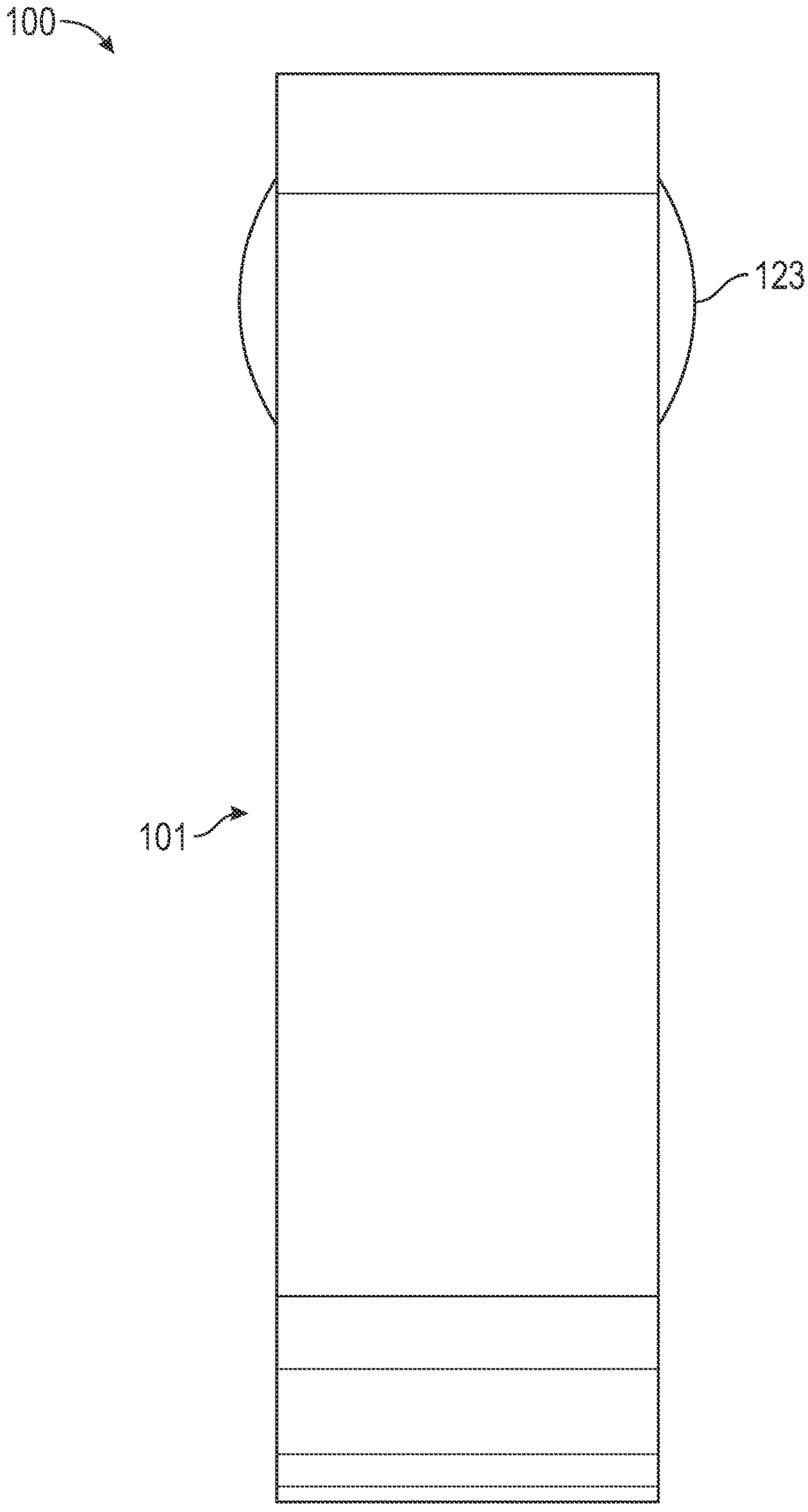

FIG. 6

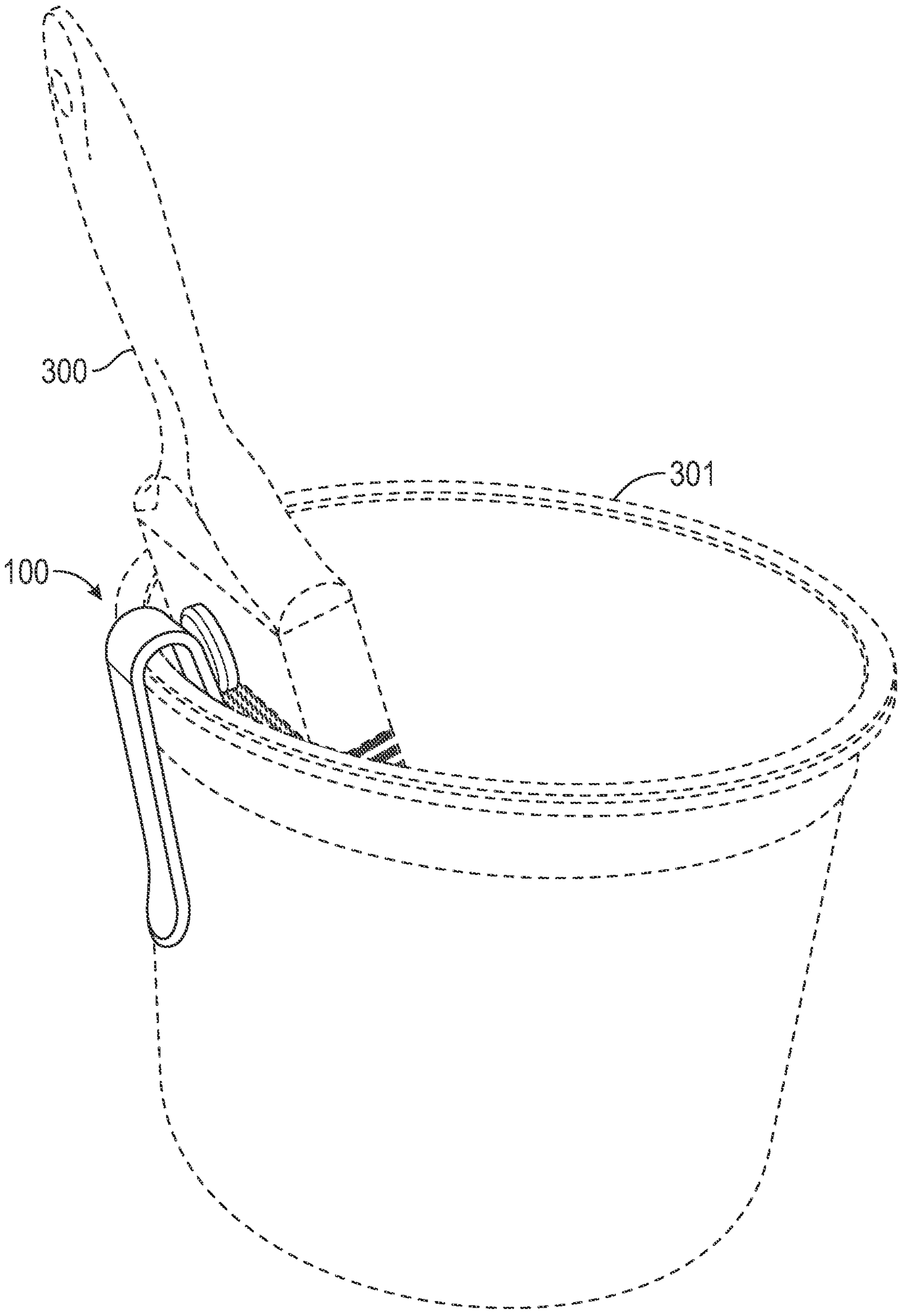

FIG. 7

MAGNETIC PAINTBRUSH OR TOOL HOLDER

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Home improvement and construction projects rely on various handheld tools to perform a variety of tasks. Hammers, screwdrivers, wrenches, paintbrushes, among other tools, are used intermittently and need to be easily available when not in use. Oftentimes, projects are performed in tight spaces or on ladders where space is limited. Other times, projects may be performed in cluttered areas where tools may be misplaced easily. Various types of paintbrush and tool holders are known in the prior art. For example, there are belts with pockets or fasteners, clips, and backpacks. However, these can be cumbersome and unnecessary when using a single tool. What is needed is a paintbrush or tool holder that is easy to use, lightweight, can be attached to a variety of supports, and includes a quick connect coupling system.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to tool holders, and more particularly, to a magnetic paintbrush or tool holder for supporting a paintbrush or tool while not in use.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In one aspect of the disclosure, a holder for a paintbrush may include a body having a posterior arm and an anterior arm. The posterior arm may include a first longitudinal axis extending from a posterior arm proximal portion to a posterior arm distal end. The anterior arm may include a second longitudinal axis extending from an anterior arm proximal portion to an anterior arm distal end. The anterior arm proximal portion may include an anterior arm offset portion having a third longitudinal axis that intersects the first longitudinal axis at or below a midpoint of the posterior arm. The body may include a u-shaped portion joining the posterior arm distal end and the anterior arm distal end. The holder may include at least one magnet positioned on the anterior arm. A removable cap can be configured to cover the at least one magnet. The posterior arm proximal portion may include a posterior arm offset portion having a fourth longitudinal axis offset from the first longitudinal axis. The body may comprise metal, plastic, polymer, or a combination thereof. In one aspect, a length of the posterior arm from the posterior arm proximal portion to the posterior arm distal end may be longer than a length of the anterior arm from the anterior arm proximal portion to the anterior arm distal end. In another aspect, a length of the posterior arm from the posterior arm proximal portion to the posterior arm distal end may be substantially the same as the length of the anterior arm from the anterior arm proximal portion to the anterior arm distal end. The anterior arm proximal portion may be configured to abut the posterior arm at or below the midpoint of the posterior arm. In one aspect, the body can be rigid. In another aspect, the body can be resilient. The at least one magnet may be positioned at or above a midpoint of the anterior arm.

In another aspect, a tool holder can include a body having a posterior arm and an anterior arm. The posterior arm may include a posterior arm distal end and at least one bend. The anterior arm may include a longitudinal axis extending from an anterior arm proximal portion to an anterior arm distal end, the anterior arm proximal portion may include an anterior arm offset portion having a second longitudinal axis that is offset from the first longitudinal axis. The body may include a u-shaped portion joining the posterior arm distal end and the anterior arm distal end. The tool holder may include at least one magnet positioned on the anterior arm between a midpoint of the anterior arm and the anterior arm distal end. The holder may include a cap configured to cover the at least one magnet. The body may comprise metal, plastic, polymer, or a combination thereof. The anterior arm proximal portion may be configured to abut the posterior arm at or below a midpoint of the posterior arm. In one aspect the body may be rigid. In another aspect the body may be resilient. In yet another aspect the body may be flexible. The at least one magnet may comprise a first and second magnet. In one aspect, the at least one bend may include a first bend, a second bend, and a third bend forming a recurve portion of the posterior arm. In one aspect, a length of the posterior arm from the posterior arm distal end to a posterior arm proximal portion may be longer than a length of the anterior arm from the anterior arm distal end to the anterior arm proximal portion. In another aspect, a length of the posterior arm from the posterior arm distal end to a posterior arm proximal portion may be substantially the same as a length of the anterior arm from the anterior arm distal end to the anterior arm proximal portion. The posterior arm proximal portion may be configured to pry open a paint can.

Objects of the present paintbrush holder or tool holder, along with various novel features that characterize the invention are particularly pointed out in the claims forming a part of this disclosure. For better understanding of the paintbrush holder or tool holder, its operating advantages and specific objects attained by its uses, refer to the accompanying drawings and description.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1** is an isometric view illustrating a paintbrush or tool holder having magnet with a removable cap, with the cap removed;

FIG. **2** is an isometric view illustrating the paintbrush or tool holder of FIG. **1** with the cap installed;

FIG. **3** illustrates a left-side view of the paintbrush or tool holder of FIG. **1**;

FIG. **4** illustrates a right-side view of the paintbrush or tool holder of FIG. **1**;

FIG. **5** illustrates a front view of the paintbrush or tool holder of FIG. **1**;

FIG. **6** illustrates a back view of the paintbrush or tool holder of FIG. **1**; and

FIG. **7** illustrates an isometric view illustrating the paintbrush or tool holder of FIG. **1** positioned on a rim of a paint can.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

With reference now to the FIGS. **1** through **7**, an example of the instant paintbrush or tool holder employing the principles and concepts of the present paintbrush or tool holder and generally designated by the reference number **100** will be described.

Certain exemplary embodiments will now be described to provide an overall understanding of the principles of the structure, function, manufacture, and use of the devices and methods disclosed herein. One or more examples of these embodiments are illustrated in the accompanying drawings. Those skilled in the art will understand that the devices and methods specifically described herein and illustrated in the

accompanying drawings are non-limiting exemplary embodiments and that the scope of the present invention is defined solely by the claims. The features illustrated or described in connection with one exemplary embodiment may be combined with the features of other embodiments. Such modifications and variations are intended to be included within the scope of the present invention.

Referring to FIGS. **1** through **7**, a preferred embodiment of the paintbrush or tool holder **100** is illustrated.

FIG. **1** illustrates a holder **100** for a paintbrush or tool that may include a body **101** having a posterior arm **103** and an anterior arm **105**. The posterior arm **103** may include a first longitudinal axis (illustrated as **201** in FIG. **4**) extending from a posterior arm proximal portion **114** to a posterior arm distal end **106**. In some embodiments, the posterior arm may include a first bend, a second bend, and a third bend forming a recurve portion of the posterior arm. The anterior arm **105** may include a second longitudinal axis (illustrated as **202** in FIG. **4**) extending from an anterior arm proximal portion **112** to an anterior arm distal end **108**.

The posterior arm proximal portion may include a posterior arm bend **115** and a posterior arm offset portion **117**. The anterior arm proximal portion **112** may include an anterior arm bend **111** and an anterior arm offset portion **113** having a third longitudinal axis (illustrated as **203** in FIGS. **3** and **4**) that intersects the first longitudinal axis **201** at or below a midpoint **104** of the posterior arm **103**. FIG. **3** illustrates where first longitudinal axis **201** and third longitudinal axis **203** intersect at **400**.

The body **101** may include a u-shaped portion **107** joining the posterior arm distal end **106** and the anterior arm distal end **108**. While the u-shaped portion **107** is shown as having a smooth curve, the u-shaped portion could also include a v-shape or could include a linear member that is substantially orthogonal or perpendicular to both the posterior arm **103** and the anterior arm **105**.

The holder **100** may include at least one magnet **121** positioned on the anterior arm **105**. The magnet **121** may be circular in shape as shown, or may include another shape such as an oval, rectangle, square, polygonal, or irregular. The magnet **121** may is include a central opening to receive a screw or other fastening member **125** to join the magnet **121** to the anterior arm **105**. Alternatively, the magnet **121** may be adhered to the anterior arm **105** by a glue or adhesive. The magnet **121** can be formed of any magnetic material, for example neodymium, alnico, ferrite neodymium, samarium cobalt, and combinations thereof that are configured to be attracted to metals forming common hand tools or paintbrushes. The at least one magnet **121** may be positioned at or above a midpoint **102** of the anterior arm **105**.

A removable cap **123** can be configured to cover the at least one magnet **121**. The posterior arm proximal portion **114** may include a posterior arm offset portion **117** having a fourth longitudinal axis (illustrated as **204** in FIG. **4**) offset from the first longitudinal axis **201**.

The body **101** may comprise metal, plastic, polymer, or a combination thereof. For example, in one embodiment the body **101** may include a core formed of a metal, such as steel, aluminum, or stainless steel surrounded by a polymer such as silicone to form a protective coating that is easy to clean and can increase friction on the surface for ease of gripping or increase shock absorbing properties. In another embodiment, the body **101** may be entirely formed by additive manufacturing or injection molding using one or more polymeric materials or plastics.

The body **101** may have a solid cross-section, or may be formed in a tubular configuration with a hollow interior. The cross-section may be rectangular, oval, circular, square, trapezoidal, or other polygonal shape. The corners may be square or may be chamfered.

In one aspect, a length of the posterior arm **103** from the posterior arm proximal portion **114** to the posterior arm distal end **106** may be longer than a length of the anterior arm **105** from the anterior arm proximal portion **112** to the anterior arm distal end **108**. In another aspect, a length of the posterior arm **103** from the posterior arm proximal portion **114** to the posterior arm distal end **106** may be substantially the same as the length of the anterior arm **105** from the anterior arm proximal portion **114** to the anterior arm distal end **112**.

The body **100** can be configured to be placed on a support surface, such as a wall of a paint can, on a belt of a user, a support of a ladder, or any other easily accessible support surface. The u-shaped portion **107** is configured to rest on or near the support surface. In one aspect, the anterior arm **105** and the posterior arm **103** are configured to grip the support surface. In another aspect, the anterior arm offset portion **113** may be configured to pass under the support surface so that the body **101** surrounds the support surface, as is the case when the support surface is a belt or other narrow support. In one aspect, the body **100** can be rigid. In another aspect, the body **100** can be resilient or flexible so as to return to a first position after being expanded when being placed on a support surface.

As shown in FIG. **5**, the at least one magnet **121** and removable cap **123** may include a diameter that exceeds the width w of the body **101**. Having a large diameter magnet allows for an increased holding strength when connected to the metal of a paint can for example. The at least one magnet **121** is configured to be positioned above a midpoint **102** of the anterior arm **105**. In some embodiments the at least one magnet may be attached to the anterior arm **105** below the anterior arm distal end **108** and a top of the at least one magnet **121** may extend above the u-shaped portion **107**. In other embodiments the top of the at least one magnet **121** may be substantially flush with the u-shaped portion **107** or below the u-shaped portion **107** This configuration allows for the positioning of a paintbrush or other tool at the highest possible location. The at least one magnet **121** may include a first and second magnet positioned close to one another to increase the magnetic field and therefore holding capacity of the paintbrush or tool holder **100**.

The removable cap **123** is shown as having a shape substantially similar to the shape of the magnet **121**. However, in other embodiments, the removable cap may be configured to have a shape different than the shape of the magnet **121**. For example, the removable cap **123** may be configured as a square, oval, rectangle, polygon, or other shape such as a beer bottle, female silhouette, mascot of a sports team, or brand logo. The removable cap **123** may be formed of an easily cleanable material. In some embodiments, the removable cap **123** can be formed of the same material as the body **101**. In other embodiments, the removable cap **123** can be formed of a material different than the body **101**.

The removable cap **123** may be configured to connect with the magnet **121** by one or more connecting mechanisms, such as a threaded connection, a ridge or groove, or other snap-fit connection. Alternatively, the removable cap **123** can be configured to friction fit over the magnet **121** to remain in place. In some embodiments, the removable cap **123** can include a textured surface having one or more raised

or recessed portions to increase friction between a paintbrush or tool attached to the holder **100**.

FIG. **3** illustrates a left-side view of the paintbrush or tool holder **100**. A gap **133** is shown between the anterior arm offset portion **113** and the posterior arm **103**. In some embodiments, the gap **133** may include a range of 1 mm to 10 mm. A larger spacing allows for ease of placing the holder **100** over wide supports, while a smaller spacing allows for an increase in gripping when placed on a support. In some embodiments, the anterior arm offset portion **113** is configured to abut the posterior arm **103** at or below the midpoint **104** of the posterior arm **103**. In such embodiments, there is no gap **133**.

FIG. **4** illustrates a right-side view of the paintbrush or tool holder **100**. Posterior arm **103** includes a first longitudinal axis **201** extending from the posterior arm distal end **106** to the posterior arm bend **115**. The posterior arm offset portion **117** is configured to remove paint can lids and includes a fourth longitudinal axis **204** which is offset from the first longitudinal axis **201** by angle β. β can be in the range of approximately 90 degrees to approximately 179 degrees, more preferably in the range of approximately 110 degrees to approximately 160 degrees, and more preferably in the range of approximately 120 degrees to approximately 150 degrees. Such an angle, β, allows for greater leverage and increases an ability of a user to pry open conventional paint can lids.

Also viewed in FIG. **4** is the second longitudinal axis **202** of the anterior arm **105** that extends from the anterior arm distal end **106** to the anterior arm bend **111**. The anterior arm offset portion **113** includes a third longitudinal axis **203** that is offset from the second longitudinal axis **202** by angle α. α can be in the range of approximately 110 degrees to approximately 10 degrees, more preferably in the range of approximately 105 degrees to approximately 30 degrees, and more preferably in the range of approximately 95 degrees to approximately 50 degrees. Such an angle, a, allows for a secure fit between the holder **100** and the wall of a paint can or other support surface, such as a belt of a user.

FIG. **7** illustrates the paintbrush or tool holder **100** being used to support a paintbrush **300** while not in use. The holder **100** is mounted on a paint can **301**. The posterior arm **103** and the anterior arm **105** grip the wall of the paint can **301** to hold the holder **100** in a stable positon. Such a holder **100** provides a convenient location to place an unused paintbrush.

Exemplary embodiments of this disclosure are described herein, including the best mode known to the inventors for carrying out the disclosure. Variations of those embodiments may become apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art upon reading the foregoing description. The inventors expect skilled artisans to employ such variations as appropriate, and the inventors intend for the disclosure to be practiced otherwise than as specifically described herein. Accordingly, this disclosure includes all modifications and equivalents of the subject matter recited in the claims appended hereto as permitted by applicable law. Moreover, any combination of the above described elements in all possible variations thereof is encompassed by the disclosure unless otherwise indicated herein or otherwise clearly contradicted by context.

The use of the terms "a" and "an" and "the" and similar referents in the context of describing the disclosure (especially in the context of the following claims) is to be construed to cover both the singular and the plural, unless otherwise indicated herein or clearly contradicted by context. The terms "comprising," "having," "including," and "containing" are to be construed as open-ended terms (i.e., meaning "including, but not limited to,") unless otherwise noted. The terms "substantially" and "approximately" include within 1, 2, 3, or 4 standard deviations. In certain embodiments, the terms "about," "substantially," or "approximately" means within 50%, 20%, 15%, %, 9%, 8%, 7%, 6%, 5%, 4%, 3%, 2%, 1%, 0.5%, or 0.05% of a given value or range. Recitation of ranges of values herein are merely intended to serve as a shorthand method of referring individually to each separate value falling within the range, unless otherwise indicated herein, and each separate value is incorporated into the specification as if it were individually recited herein. All methods described herein can be performed in any suitable order unless otherwise indicated herein or otherwise clearly contradicted by context. The use of any and all examples, or exemplary language (e.g., "such as") provided herein, is intended merely to better illuminate the disclosure and does not pose a limitation on the scope of the disclosure unless otherwise claimed. No language in the specification should be construed as indicating any non-claimed element as essential to the practice of the disclosure.

What is claimed is:

1. A holder for a paintbrush comprising:

a body, comprising:

a posterior arm having a first longitudinal axis extending from a posterior arm proximal portion to a posterior arm distal end;

an anterior arm having a second longitudinal axis extending from an anterior arm proximal portion to an anterior arm distal end, the anterior arm proximal portion including an anterior arm offset portion having a third longitudinal axis that intersects the first longitudinal axis at or below a midpoint of the posterior arm;

a u-shaped portion joining the posterior arm distal end and the anterior arm distal end; and

at least one magnet positioned on the anterior arm.

2. The holder for a paintbrush of claim **1** further comprising:

a removable cap configured to cover the at least one magnet.

3. The holder for a paintbrush of claim **1**, wherein the posterior arm proximal portion includes a posterior arm offset portion having a fourth longitudinal axis offset from the first longitudinal axis.

4. The holder for a paintbrush of claim **1**, wherein the body comprises metal, polymer, or a combination thereof.

5. The holder for a paintbrush of claim **1**, wherein a length of the posterior arm from the posterior arm proximal portion to the posterior arm distal end is longer than a length of the anterior arm from the anterior arm proximal portion to the anterior arm distal end.

6. The holder for a paintbrush of claim **1**, wherein a length of the posterior arm from the posterior arm proximal portion to the posterior arm distal end is substantially the same as the length of the anterior arm from the anterior arm proximal portion to the anterior arm distal end.

7. The holder for a paintbrush of claim **1**, wherein the anterior arm proximal portion is configured to abut the posterior arm at or below the midpoint of the posterior arm.

8. The holder for a paintbrush of claim **1**, wherein the body is rigid.

9. The holder for a paintbrush of claim **1**, wherein the at least one magnet is positioned at or above a midpoint of the anterior arm.

10. A tool holder comprising:

a body, comprising:

a posterior arm having a posterior arm distal end and at least one bend;

an anterior arm having a longitudinal axis extending from an anterior arm proximal portion to an anterior arm distal end, the anterior arm proximal portion including an anterior arm offset portion having a second longitudinal axis that is offset from the first longitudinal axis;

a u-shaped portion joining the posterior arm distal end and the anterior arm distal end; and

at least one magnet positioned on the anterior arm between a midpoint of the anterior arm and the anterior arm distal end.

11. The tool holder of claim **10** further comprising:

a cap configured to cover the at least one magnet.

12. The tool holder of claim **10**, wherein the body comprises metal, polymer, or a combination thereof.

13. The tool holder of claim **10**, wherein the anterior arm proximal portion is configured to abut the posterior arm at or below a midpoint of the posterior arm.

14. The tool holder of claim **10**, wherein the body is rigid.

15. The tool holder of claim **10**, wherein the at least one magnet comprises a first and second magnet.

16. The tool holder of claim **10**, wherein the at least one bend includes a first bend, a second bend, and a third bend forming a recurve portion of the posterior arm.

17. The tool holder of claim **10**, wherein a length of the posterior arm from the posterior arm distal end to a posterior arm proximal end is longer than a length of the anterior arm from the anterior arm distal end to the anterior arm proximal portion.

18. The tool holder of claim **10**, wherein a length of the posterior arm from the posterior arm distal end to a posterior arm proximal end is substantially the same as a length of the anterior arm from the anterior arm distal end to the anterior arm proximal portion.

19. The tool holder of claim **10**, wherein the body is flexible.

20. The tool holder of claim **10**, wherein the posterior arm includes a proximal portion configured to pry open a paint can.

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